



S/S 20160

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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December 11, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

SUBJECT : U.S.-Financed Russian Trucks in Cuba.

The following information is provided in response to your note dated December 10, 1962, concerning the alleged delivery of Russian military trucks to Cuba, financed by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to which the United States is a prime contributor.

No United States funds were used to purchase 19 Jeeps and 13 small trucks which were sent to Cuba. They were part of the U.S.S.R.'s voluntary contribution of 1,000,000 rubles, in kind, to the World Health Organization's Malaria Eradication Special Account. The \$98,752 figure which has been mentioned as the price paid by the PAHO for these vehicles does not represent a purchase, but the value placed upon the vehicles for accounting purposes. Seventy-three Jeeps were contributed by the U.S.S.R. to the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1961, of which 19 were sent to Cuba and the balance to a number of other countries where malaria eradication programs were in progress. The 13 trucks were delivered in January 1962 in lieu of Jeeps. These vehicles were assigned to Cuba following the determination by the PAHO technical personnel after consultation with the Cuban Government that the 50 vehicles provided by the Cuban Government did not meet the needs of the program. The U.S.S.R.'s contribution was not conditioned upon a particular use of the vehicles nor on their destination. WHO does not accept contributions if subject to such conditions. The vehicles provided by WHO are the property of PAHO/WHO and not of the Government of Cuba. Their use is supervised by PAHO personnel.

The Director's financial report for 1961 shows that PAHO's actual expenditures for assistance in the Cuban program exceeded the original budget estimate by approximately \$114,000. It should be noted, however, that \$98,752 of this amount represents the value placed upon the

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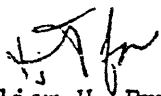
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19 Jeeps mentioned above. The balance represents the expenditures from the Special Malaria Fund of PAHO in excess of the estimates which were made two years earlier when the amount which would be available in that fund was still unknown. The financial report shows corresponding increases, and in some cases larger increases, in expenditures in the malaria programs of Mexico, Guatamala, El Salvador and other Latin American countries.

The success of the continental-wide malaria eradication campaign depends on its suppression in every part of the Americas. Malaria is present in the eastern province of Cuba, particularly Oriente. There was an upsurge of malaria in this area in the latter part of 1960 and the early part of 1961. From November 1960 to April 1961, there were 30 cases of malaria on Guantanamo Base, principally among the Marine border guards. The malaria was believed to have been introduced by Cuban workers or by mosquitoes flying in from the adjacent areas where malaria is endemic.

Should you wish further information I shall be happy to provide it.


William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary